(b) if so, the number of such vehicles being used by the officers ,of the Ministry and the names and designations of these Officers;

(c) whether these Officers are entitled for private use of these vehicles;

(d) if not, what action Government have taken or propose to take to recover the cost of unauthorised use of these vehicles from the concerted Officers; and

(e) how much expenditure has been incurred on POL and maintenance of these vehicles during the past one year, vehicle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise. However, it may be mentioned that as per Rules, staff cars when not required for official journey can be used occasionally on non-duty journeys on payment basis at the prescribed rate. Besides, officers of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India and above and Chief executives of autonomous bodies etc. are also allowed use of staff cars for private purposes upto a distance of 500 Kms. per month on payment of the prescribed charges.

Operation of Calcutta Metro on Sundays

*257. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total number of pgssengers carried by the Calcutta Metro in each of the years since its inception;

(b) the net earnings of the Metro in 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(c) whether, in view of the large public demand, it is proposed to operate the Metro on Sundays too?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a)

Year	Number of passengers carried by Calcutta Metro
1984-85	14,65,520
1985-86	27,57,465
1986-87	98,41,256
1987-88	1,58,05,920
1988-89	1,69,76,135
1989-90	1,97,74,548
1990-91	2,26,41,268
1991-92	2,41,44,084
1992-93	1,54,56,582
1993-94	1,58,61,882
1994-95	1,94,86,481
1995-96	4,32,76,008
1996-97	6,25,86,502
1997-98 (upto June'97)	1,57,37,925

(b) Net earnings of the Metro:.

1995-96 (-) Rs. 13.78 crore (loss)
1996-97 (-) Rs. 15.64 crore (loss)

(c) Calcutta Metro is operated on Sundays also. However, in veiw of less traffic, as compared to other week days, and also for providing maintenance blocks, the commercial service period on Sundays is from 1500 hrs. to 2200 hrs. with the last train leaving from either direction at 2120 hrs.

Opening of "Ability Schools" in Delhi

*258. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Ability Schools" are proposed to be opened in Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, the objectives for such project with' highlights of such schools in comparison to Sarvodaya Vidyalayas already functioning;

(c) whether admission to such schools will be made from 1st standard or from intermediate standard;

(d) whether some criteria for admission in such schools has been laid down;

(e) whether some structure of tuition for such schools has been specified;

(f) whether some criteria of recruitment of teac hers in such schools with their emoluments as been laid down; and

(g) if so, the details thereof with its comparison to Kendriya Vidyalayas?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) The Govt, of NCT of Delhi propose to open "Ability Schools" as the objective of Ability Schools is to provide the best education facilities for talented children from poor socio-economic background. Sarvodaya Vidyalayas were opened with the objective of providing integrated schooling from Class I to Class XII with provision for English as a subject from Class I onwards.

(c) The admissions are proposed to be given in Class VI, IX and XI during 1997.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No tuition fee is charged in the Govt, schools in Delhi.

(f) It is proposed to select teachers for "Ability Schools" from among those already working under the Govt, of NCT of Delhi, with their consent.

(g) Teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas and in Government Schools of NCT of Delhi are recruited by direct recruitment/ promotion. The Primary, Trained Graduate and Post Graduate Teachers working under the Govt, of NCT of Delhi and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have identical pay scales.

etc. My quesiton specifically is whethet such a commitment has been made by the Government of India *vis-a-vis* Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited which is a private sector company. The Government is prepared to invest in a private sector company but not in sick public sector units like HFC and FCI. I would like to know from the Minister, in view of what they have earlier submitted, whether the reply that he is giving now is correct or wrong.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the reply given by me is correct. The KRIBHCO has submitted its proposal to the operating agency to revive the Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited. Of course, it is not a private sector company. It is a joint sector company. I would like to clarify this position to the hon. Member.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: What is the equity of the Government?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I don't have that information at present. It is joint ector company of the State Government.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Is it a joint sector company of the State Government?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, of course.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I am telling you that the private equity is much more than 50%.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Of course, it is run by a private person. It is a joint sector company. That is all I know.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Please check up. *{Interruptions)*... This is a serious quesiton, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer, he is trying to answer your quesiton. Listen to him first.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the KRIBHCO has submitted its revival proposal. The KRIBHCO has

asked them for a lot of concessions. They have not been accepted by the financial institutions. The BIFR has asked to come again on 4.9.1997. As far as Government of India is concerned, it has no equity in Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited. The private equity is 16%. The Karnataka Government has got an equity of 6% or something like that. Madam, no decision has been taken on that. As I have submitted before the House, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has also refused permission to KRIBHCO to extend a loan of Rs. 100 crores to Man-galore Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited in view of the restrictions imposed under the Multi-Stale Co-operative Societies Act. The KRIBHCO is now engaged in the process of submitting a revised rehabilitation package to the BIFR and it Madam, time and again we have been saying that these companies are paying tax through the nose because they cannot invest their surplus. There are sick public sector units owned by the Government of India which are craving for investment. The chief Minister of West Bengal has written for the revival of the Durgapur unit. There are so many other units like Namrup, Ramagundam, Barauni and sin-dri. If the Government is interested to revive the fertilizer plants, why not one of these units? But the Chief Minister of West Bengal was told that KRIBHCO had lost its interest. Earlier it had some interest, but now it has lost its interest. Now this kind of an offer is being sent to BIFR. I think this calls for a serious indepth inquiry by the CBI. I think there is something amiss and some serious sus-picion arises out of the manner in which all these things are being dealt with. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will agree to hold such an inquiry.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, KRIBHCO had looked into the viability of revamping the units of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and the Fertilizer Corporation of India in 1995. A preliminary study was undertaken in respect of three units including the Durgapur unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation. In view of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation's accumulated loss, surplus manpower, obsolete technology, high cost production and retention price of urea at the Durgapur unit in the post revamped situation, the KRIBHCO management concluded that revamping of the Durgapur unit was not an economically viable proposition for the society.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Society?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: KRIBHCO is a cooperative society. KRIBHCO had also explored the possible of setting up a new urea plant at the existing plant site of Durgapur after carrying out feasibility study. KRIBHCO had decided to send a proposal for setting up a newammonia-urea plant at the existing plant site at Gorakhpur. The proposal is being processed for obtaining the first stage clearance of the Government for an investment decision.

So far as his second question is concerned, the Government is committed to transparency. If the House feels that any inquiry is needed, we are for it.

SHRI JIBON ROY: The basic question is this. If a public sector company possesses some surplus, should it invest in a sister public sector company or outside? Here the total cost of the HFC revival plant was Rs. 4.60 crores. KRIBHCO total investible money with KRIBHCO as on 1st April, 1997 was about Rs. 1045.57 crores.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, that is the question. Will the Minister answer why the fund was left idle?... *{Interruptions)...*

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: They have a proposal ...*{Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. You have put a question. He is I answering... *{Interruptions)...*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is not just the sick units. The question is: Why was the fund lying idle?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. He is still in the process of answering.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: They have a proposal to invest this money in new plants as well as in the Gorakhpur unit. As far as production of fertilizer in the country is concerned, it is targeted to increase by 4 per cent this year. The growth in fertilizer production during the first quarter of 1997-98 has been of the order of 34 per cent. During the current year, as major fertilizer projects are being commissioned, additional urea will be generated. As far as this money is concerned, KRIBCHO is already planning to revive the Gorakhpur unit by setting up a new Ammonia Urea plant. This will require an investment of Rs. 1300 crores.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I seek your indulgence. My point is very important. The question is: Why was such a huge surplus fund left idle in the coffers of that particular unit? By doing that, the unit lost money and the production of fertilizer in the country suffered. What could be the reasons?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That was the Boards decision.' The Board has decided to irfvest it in various projects.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How long Will it lie idle?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has just answered that it was the Board's decision.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Madam, I may come to the help of the Minister as to why this money has been kept like this and I will tell you how long it has been kept. From 1992-93 to 1996-97, every year they have been paying a tax of Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 99 crores. I am not talking about HFCL but I am talking about KRIBHCO itself. What has happened during the last four to five

yesTS, Madam, is, projects are being taken up and projects are being dropped like hot potatoes for reasons which are to be investigated. Just now the Minister has said that a project is going to be taken up at Hazira for ammonia-urea. For the information of the House may I say that there was a proposal for Hazira expan-

Import of Urea

*259. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still importing Urea;

(b) if so, the names of the countries exporting Urea to India and the quantity of imported Urea country-wise; and

(c) the main agency importing Urea on behalf of India and on what basis this agency has been allocated the import quota?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes Sir, urea is being imported for bridging the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(b) During 1997-98 (upto July '97), the country-wise origin of urea imports has been as under:

(Qty. In LMTs)

SI. No.	Country	Quantity
1.	CIS	6.03
2.	Germany	0.29
3.	Kuwait	1.17
4.	Libya	0.81
5.	Qatar	1.33
6.	Romania	1.22
7,	Saudi Arabia	1.46
8.	UAE	1.31